

Governor Easley's campaign promise:

“I want to keep the tax burden low on all North Carolinians. (...) As Governor, I will take direct action to relieve the tax burden on working families, not depend on simplistic budget gimmicks.”

— October, 2003

The Reality:

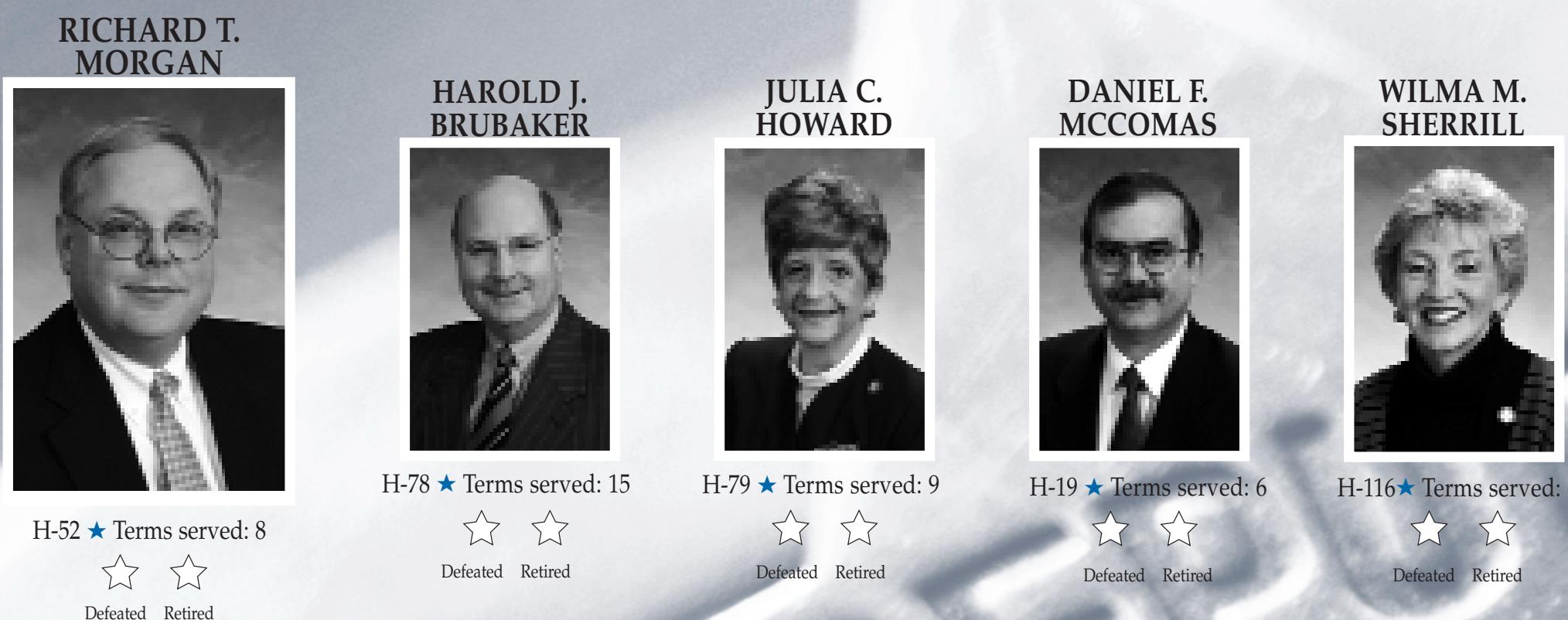
Three tax increases in his first three years in office, and the next one is in the making.

NORTH CAROLINA'S LEAST WANTED

These REPUBLICAN members of the House of Representatives turned against the taxpayers of North Carolina and the anti-tax platform of the Republican Party and passed a budget that contained **1.1 BILLION IN TAX INCREASES**.

THE MORGAN FIVE — In 2003, Representative Richard T. Morgan, aided by a group of four of his Republican colleagues, struck a deal with the Democratic leadership and assumed co-speakership.

Along with co-speaker James B. Black (D) Rep. Morgan then pushed a budget through the legislature which increased North Carolina's tax burden significantly.



THE FOLLOWERS— These House members followed the lead of the 'Morgan Five' and voted for \$1.1 billion in tax increases on the hardworking families of North Carolina.



NO REPUBLICAN SENATOR VOTED FOR THE TAX INCREASE

*Representative Michael P. Decker ran as a Republican in 2002, but switched to the Democratic Party in January 2003. This left the House evenly split at 60-60, which paved the way for the infamous co-speakership. Decker later switched back to the Republican Party, but his earlier defection and his vote for the budget cost him his career.